

NOTICE.

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CHEMISTS.
By Appointment to His Excellency the Governor and his Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh.
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PERFUMERS.

PATENT MEDICINE VENDORS.
DRUGGISTS' SUPPLYMEN,
And
AERATED WATER MAKERS.

SHIPS MEDICINE CHESTS REFITTED.
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NOTICE.—To avoid delay in the execution of all Orders it is particularly requested that all business communications be addressed to the Firm, A. S. Watson and Co., or
HONGKONG DISPENSARY. 131

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications on Editorial matters should be addressed "The Editor," and those on business "The Manager," and not to individuals by name.

Correspondents are requested to forward their name and address with communications addressed to the Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

MARRIAGE.

On 27th instant, at the residence of Mr. Paganelli, 10, Gloucester Place, London, England, to Sophie Marie, eldest daughter of E. Miller, Esq. of Bow (Bavaria). 1005

The Daily Press.

LONGKONG, MAY 20TH, 1880.

WHETHER it is desirable that the lower ranks of the Civil Service in this Colony should be recruited from the ranks of Europeans or Chinese is a question which can admit of but one answer. Chinese are necessary and always will be for certain purposes, but where a European equally qualified can be found to fill a post the interests of the service would unquestionably be better served by the latter. In the *Gazette* of Thursday, however, appears an amendment to the scheme of competitive examinations for the Civil Service which virtually excludes Europeans. The circumstances of the case which led to the change are as follow. The Surveyor-General applied that a vacant clerkship in his office might be filled up, and is stating what kind of a man was required he said: "It is indispensable that whoever is appointed should have a good knowledge of English, neat and clear hand-writing, and some knowledge of accounts, as he will be continually called upon to assist in checking bills and making calculations." Upon this the Governor ordered the candidates applying for the appointment to be examined. Seven candidates presented themselves, and the examiners in their report say: "The enclosed list will show the number of marks obtained in the above subjects (English, handwriting, and arithmetic) and also the knowledge of written and spoken Chinese possessed by the candidates. An acquaintance with Chinese is not a requisite for the post, but the Board of Examiners examined the candidates in that language, as they understand it is His Excellency's wish that this should be done in all examinations for the Civil Service." His Excellency's minute is as follows: "Let Mr. WONG KAM MUX, who has received the highest number of marks (counting English, handwriting, arithmetic, and Chinese), be appointed. I am much obliged to the Board for the pains they have taken in conducting this examination, and I entirely approve of their having examined the candidates in Chinese. The final results as to the value of each subject, for appointments of this class, can be as follows:—English 150 marks, handwriting 100, arithmetic, 100, Chinese 100." Of the seven candidates examined only the name of the successful one is published, and it is impossible to say how many of the unsuccessful ones were English, Portuguese, or Chinese, but from the fact of 79 being the highest number of marks obtained for English, it is probable that there were none of the former nationality. This fact does not, however, materially affect the argument, since it is clear that the English would be equally out of the field in the competition if a knowledge of Chinese is to be the real test of their fitness for any office. From the table of the number of marks obtained by each candidate in the examination referred to, it appears that the successful candidate only occupied third place, excluding the marks he obtained for Chinese, which is termed an "extra subject." One man obtained 223 against his 208, being credited with 80 for arithmetic, while WONG KAM MUX is only credited with 40 in that subject. Seeing that the person who is to receive the appointment is to "continually called upon to assist in checking bills and making calculations," and is not required to know Chinese, we should have thought this ought to have decided the appointment. Another candidate who equal to WONG KAM MUX in arithmetic and handwriting, stands above him in English, so that in whatever way it is taken, the successful candidate is wholly dependent on Chinese for his success. The new system is hardly consistent with His Excellency's professed desire to encourage the teaching of English in the schools of the Colony, since Chinese boys, who neglect their own language will be seriously handicapped in the examinations for the Civil Service. We have often remarked on the withdrawal by His Excellency of all encouragement to the study of Chinese by the members of the Civil service. It is highly desirable that our officials should have sufficient knowledge of the language to be not wholly dependent on the interpreters, and that every inducement should be held out to the younger members of the service to acquire such knowledge. His Excellency, however, swept away the system of half-yearly examinations, and the students—if they continue their studies—are now left entirely to their own resources, without encouragement of any kind. At the same time it would appear that the lower and locally recruited ranks of the service are to be filled exclusively by Chinese. Such a state of things certainly cannot be conducive to the internal good working of the department.

The German steamer *Asta* left Singapore on Sunday for Hongkong.

A private and inspection of the Government and Volunteer Fire Brigades will take place on Tuesday afternoon at half past one o'clock.

The *Shen-ko* of the 20th instant states that it came from Peking that the negotiations between China and Germany regarding the revision of the German treaty have been concluded, and several articles supplementary to that treaty have been agreed upon. One article is said to provide for the establishment at Shanghai of bonded warehouses.

We (N. C. Daily News) are informed that during the stay of H.M. S. despatch- vessel *Vigil* at Tian-tan, H.E. Li Hung-chang, the Vice-roy of China, had an interview with Sir Thomas Wade and Vice-Admiral Coote, which lasted about an hour. The *Vigil* was received with the honour becoming his station.

The following paragraph is from the *Japan Times*.

In the *Shen-ko*, a correspondent says there are about one hundred Japanese fishermen who have been between Bassein and China or Chinese or Corsairs are allowed to walk about after 10 p.m. without lanterns, and they are constantly subjected to strict police supervision Japanese, on the other hand, are most politely treated.

It having been reported in some of the Yokohama papers that the *Mitsi Bishi* steamer *Samurai* was lost, together with about two hundred souls on board, the Agency of the Company wrote to the *Gazette* to contradict the report. No accident whatever having occurred to the vessel. It is now known that the *Mitsi Bishi* *Samurai* arrived at Nagasaki about 1.30 p.m. that the *Sunshine Maru* arrived at Nagasaki at noon yesterday all well. She will also reach us tending to confirm, in all particulars except in the name of the vessel, the report that a Japanese steamer has been wrecked off or on the "Rattler" reef in the Tung-kiang Strait, with very considerable loss of life, including over two hundred souls. This is the first record of such an occurrence, and that it is a very serious one.

The *Samurai* is now at the Central Market. The vessel very frequently confounds the sounds L and N, and also F and H. A very common example of this is to be heard in the common Chinese character *lin*, meaning a division, ridge, or segment; this is colloquially rendered as *rin* in *rin*, the *guan*, *sun* *rin*, three ridges, the caravans, and innumerable other instances. The character *f*, however, or a flower, as seen above in *rin*, is very frequently used as an adjective to denote variety or uncertainty, thus *sun* *varied* or uncertain ridge in the Po-sha-*fo* or *Idol* fish; and have a certain amount of dread of it, but they more generally hate it because it destroys their nets, and when it occasionally gets aground up the creeks and shallows they spear and destroy it. This creature is considerably smaller than the porpoise, and may sometimes be seen exposed for sale at the *Praya* entrance of the Central Market.

By the papers which arrived yesterday on the 20th instant, we find that the *Abu-ali* *Catfish* at Haifa, leading for China. The captain reports that it was not on board when the fire broke out. On the 11th ultimo, about two o'clock p.m., the watch reported that there appeared to be some thing wrong in the fore-hold, and upon the hatch being opened a dense smoke issued, and soon after flames burst out. Three tugs were employed to tow the vessel, and it was blown away from the port, and was again taken up by the after-hold remained intact from first. The vessel's head having been put with the wind, the fire remained limited to the fore-hold which part is totally burnt out; the deck and two masts gone, the beams broken or twisted, and the iron plates down to the water-line bent. It is expected that the vessel below water is intact, and will be safe. She has been taken up by the tugs, and was again taken up by the wind, and she was under way when the engine and the after-hold remained intact from first.

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EXTRACTS.

INTIMIDATION.

Seated in the vestibule,
Creeping indolently,
Nuts, which nut-turkines would simply term delectable,
I with my darling Kate,
Employed a *lewd-ale*,
Discussing over a glass of wine the prospects of the State.

Said she, "You're such a Gladstone,
I marvel at my dad's to-night,
Twirling you, I must confess, among the other lads
to-night;

"He's always voted *blue*—
I am never, "Very true,
And I, although a Liberal, intend to vote so too."

"Aha!" she said, "you *loony* one,
You know that's an *error*;
It's worn by Whig and Tory both, by satyr and Hy-
perion."

She with the subject warned:
1, who at first was charmed,
At this unloved emoji began to feel alarmed.

"And then tell me all you, sir, that if
You fail to vote Conservative,
I'll never speak to you again; to this there's no
alternative."

In short, I had to yield,
So at her feet I knelt,
And promised her by all that's blue to plump for Boe-
confused.

—
A LOUISIANA STORM.

The storm fell like a burst of infernal ap-
plause. A whiff like fifty whiffs floated
up the canvas curtain of the gallery and a
fierce black cloud, drawing the moon under
its cloak, belched forth a stream of fire that
seamed to flood the ground; a peal of thunder
followed as if the sky had fallen in, the house
quivered, the great oak crooked, and every
lesser thing bowed down before the awful
blast. Every lip held its breath for a minute
— or an hour, no one knew—there was a sud-
den fall of the wind, and the floods came
down. Have you heard it thunder and rain
in those Louisiana lowlands? Every clap
seems to crack the world. It has rained a
moment; you peer up through the black pane
your house is an island, all the land is sea—
G. W. CLARK, in *Scruples*.

EASTER IN RUSSIA.

On Easter Eve the whole of the Imperial
Court of Russia attend a religious service in
full pomp and state, as do all the magistrates
in the provinces. At midnight precisely the
lights brighten, the glad song bursts forth,
"Christos vostoces! Christos vostoces! Christos
vostoces!" (Christ is risen!) Christ is risen
from the dead!); and the whole assem-
bled congregation shake hands with and
kiss one another; whether their ranks may
be for the moment, all are equal brothers
and friends. "Christ is risen!" says one, and
the answer comes, in the words of the dis-
ciples, "Is He really and truly risen?"
Without, all is sudden rejoicing and stir;
the bells of the city are ringing merrily,
people are crowding and embracing each
other through the illuminated streets, and
cannon are booming in the distance. All is
stir and excitement, for soon will begin what
appears to us to be a strange ceremony—
that of blessing the food of the people, the
various provisions being ranged in long rows
within and without the churches (there are
no seats in Russian places of worship).
Foremost among these provisions are sure
to be stacked many coloured eggs, especially
red ones; and I am told that not less than
ten million of eggs are used in St. Petersburg
and Moscow at once. It is amusing to visit
the market at this season, and see the great
variety that are ready for customers, young
or old. Many of them are real eggs dyed
with logwood, and have patterns or verses
scratched on them. — *Little Pots.*

QUEER STORIES.

AN INSURANCE POLICY.

Mr. Joshua Stubbins was a prudent young man, and he passed his time chiefly in manipulating figures. He dabbled in them as a duckling paddles in muddy water; then he swam in them, disappearing at times under over heels, after the most approved fashion of water-fowl. He would stand, leaning against a post, and making figures on his thumb-nails, or he would begin epuring on the back of a letter, in a state of self-satisfied abstraction, while a general conversation was going on around him. Numbers seemed to have a fascination for him, and probably he dreamt of them.

For the rest, he was a cautious character. He always looked on both sides of a hedge before he jumped, and then he did not jump. He walked through the gate if there was one, and appeared quite cool in the place where he wanted to go, ready to moralize on any more adventurous traveller whose enterprise had been rewarded by a sprained ankle or a broken leg. He came, too, of a cautious family. No Stubbins of his connection, whatever might be his or her Christian name, had ever covetous advantage. They seemed to be always posted in hot corners, ready to pounce him with his umbrella, then to haul a policeman by his coat-tails, and give him into custody, was the work of a moment.

"Wot's up, sir," said the policeman, touching his hat to Mr. Bowler's gold spectacles.

"I—I—I, that man's an impostor, a swindler; he—he ought to be dead," said the secretary, dryly, and he felt that he did not know how to put it in words.

He was a very nice man, that secretary. Had a high complexion and white whiskers, with gold spectacles, all of the highest re-
spectability, and his appearance was worth all the salary paid to him. Great was his surprise and indignation, therefore, one Saturday afternoon, when who should he see but Mr. Joshua Stubbins, junior, walking along Tooley-street, and doing sum up a hand-bill.

The secretary, whose name was Bowler, had always considered himself remarkable for decision of character, and first to convince himself that Joshua was not a ghost by prodling him with his umbrella, then to haul a policeman by his coat-tails, and give him into custody, was the work of a moment.

"Wot's up, sir," said the policeman, touching his hat to Mr. Bowler's gold spectacles.

"I—I—I, that man's an impostor, a swindler; he—he ought to be dead," said the secretary, dryly, and he felt that he did not know how to put it in words.

He was a very different sort of business when Mr. Bowler attended next day to support the charge he had made. Then it turned out that Joshua had got the best legal advice, and he had been paid money behind him. Solicitors, counsel, witnesses, all complete. They very soon showed that he had done nothing, and reduced the case against him all to rubble. He had saved himself with a cork jacket, he had, when the *Walrus* went down. He had subsequently been picked up by the Greek schooner *Birbantiki*, and after touching at a port in the Black Sea had actually gone to the Congo as he intended. Now he was in London. If his father had supposed him dead, it was natural Mr. Stubbins senior should have claimed the money, to which he considered himself entitled. But these were circumstances in which no way concerned his son, and over which that gentleman had no control; for he could not possibly have had any knowledge of them.

"How's that?" asked Mr. Stubbins senior. "Well, you'll see," replied his son; "only don't you let it go out of your head that I have paid extra risk premium for going to unhealthy climates, and that I am off to-morrow by the *Walrus*, which is not marked A at Lloyd's, but which is, nevertheless, out-
ward bound for the river Congo."

"I don't seem to see it," muttered Mr. Stubbins, ruefully.

"You don't want gumption neither, you don't," answered his son, totting up a short account of nine figures on the palm of his hand.

"Can't you lend a tenner, and have done with it? I can make a hundred by it before night-fall if I can get down to the Stock Exchange in time," protested the venerable gentleman. "Only, hang it, a man has no

heart to swagger when his pockets are as clean as mine."

"No, I can't, leastways, I won't," replied his son, with great kindness of manner. "It wouldn't do you no good. In your down-in-the-mud state you would only lose it. You go to my boarding-house, I have paid a week for you in advance, and you can recoup me with ten per cent. on the loan when your ship comes home."

"I ain't got no ship; you know that very well," growled Mr. Stubbins, senior.

He was so whistled; then, after looking out of the tarten window, near which they were conversing, as though he saw something in the street which amused him, Joshua said, suddenly: "Now, I'll tell you what you should do; old man, you shall go and play a quiet game of 'parchis' over a glass of grog, for I must weigh anchor. Enough said, I think."

"It is Chinese for 'Good bye,'

"What do you mean by playing at 'parchis'?" inquired the older Stubbins, with some energy, and clutching at his son's arm before he had got away.

"Well, I mean, perhaps I shall come back, and perhaps I shan't. Play at that, and you'll turn up trumps. You'll find the police and the receipt for the first premium in my old bed under the bed where I slept last night. It's you had now for a week. Ta-ta, old man; keep your pecker up, and a sharp eye on the evening papers. They're always the first to tell the news."

Next day the good ship *Walrus* hoisted the blue Peter, and went down the river with the blue Peter, and went down the river with the blue Peter, and went down the river with the blue Peter, and was all made out to be correct according to use and custom, and the receipt of Mr. Joshua Stubbins, general merchant, was recorded in an unusually lugubrious hand, with even a faint in the spelling.

The confidential agent of the Armenian firm came down to Grosvenor Square, his office, and Joshua Stubbins was the last man who shook hands with him. They both seemed pleased when the parting was over, that's a fact. Women haven't got the nerve to wrestle for themselves like the men. "Ner-r-eve!" She uttered this word in a terrific tone, so terrific that the small reporter half rose from his chair. "Ner-r-eve? What are there requiring nerve that you do that? I am incapable of?" "No offence, madame, no offence. I meant nothing personal, I assure you?" "Am I not stronger than you?" she demanded, snorting the apology. "Am I not gifted with as great a brain? Why do you despise my sex? We can bear more pain, and are therefore your superiors in courage." The small reporter was gazing fixedly at the dark corner of the room, and made no answer. "Ner-r-eve," indeed, continued the tall lady; "why, women have infinitely more nerve than men. Only yesterday I saw a woman—That's the biggest report I ever saw in the office," said the small reporter staring intently at the dark corner. The screams that rent the air brought in all the printers and several citizens from the street. When they arrived the tall one was standing on a chair with one hand covering her eyes and the other convulsively clutching at her skirts as she gathered them close around her. The small reporter wisely took advantage of the crowd to slip out, and he telegraphed from Gold Hill that he was going down to Carson to work up a big item—*Virginia City (Nevada) Chronicle*.

PERILS OF AFRICAN EXPLORATION.

M. P. Parker, Carter, in charge of the elephant attached to the Royal Belgian Expedition into Africa, gives the following exciting account of a sudden encounter which had him with Joshua Stubbins on board the *Walrus*, which was then under sailing orders, and had touched at another port, and that the *Walrus* had been lost at sea with all hands, admitted of no dispute. The pay of insurance, one of two or two thousand cases of disputed policies, and had got into bad odour with the public, so that they were not in a favourable position to contest a new claim, as possibly Joshua Stubbins had foreseen; and, indeed, the fact that Mr. Joshua Stubbins had been lost at Gravesend, on board the *Walrus*, which was then under sailing orders, and had touched at another port, and that the *Walrus* had been lost at sea with all hands, admitted of no dispute. 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